



CMC: AMPHIBIOUS OPS MORE THAN FORCIBLE ENTRY



In a speech delivered Thursday at the Surface Navy Association's symposium, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, told the surface warfare community that "Amphibious ships provide the multi-capable platforms that are the cornerstone of America's ability to respond to the range of crises that impact our National interests. I think of them as the Swiss Army knife of power projection. They are not task organized for one type of mission, but rather are flexible and suited to many. This inherent flexibility and utility is not widely understood or appreciated, as evidenced by the frequent - and erroneous - assumption that 'forcible entry' capabilities alone define the requirement for

amphibious ships. In fact, history indicates that the most frequent employment of amphibious forces is for situations of steady state engagement and crisis response. Since 9/11 U.S. amphibious forces have responded to crises and contingencies at least 50 times, a response rate more than double that of the Cold War."

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BEYOND THE EFV

Bloomberg's Roxana Tiron reported Wednesday that money budgeted for the canceled General Dynamics Corp. Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle will be used for a variety of tactical ground vehicles over the next five years, according to Lieutenant General George J. Flynn, head of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command. The Marine Corps expects at the end of January to request information from defense contractors for three types of vehicles: the Marine Corps Personnel Carrier, an updated version of existing armored

amphibious vehicles, and a new amphibious vehicle to carry rifle squads from sea to land.

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NEWS

LT. GEN. ROBLING TO LEAD AVIATION -- LT. GEN. GLUECK TAKES COMMAND OF III MEF



Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling relinquished command of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan to Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. on Jan. 7 during a change of command ceremony at the Camp Foster parade deck. Robling said goodbye to friends he had made in Japan and told those gathered this tour was special to him. "We need Marines in the Asia-Pacific region," he said. "The past 60 years of peace are a testament to those here today and who have served here in the past. I fully expect this to continue for the next 50 years." Robling is scheduled to become the deputy commandant for aviation at Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. Glueck's command of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan marks his fourth tour of duty on Okinawa. Glueck said he has three priorities

for this tour on Okinawa: "operational readiness, family readiness and maintaining the unique relationship with the host nation.

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FEMALE MARINES MAKING HISTORY IN AFGHANISTAN



Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills recently addressed members of his Female Engagement Teams in Afghanistan to let them know that they are having an impact of historical proportions. The Female Engagement Team (FET) aids the infantry Marines by engaging Afghan women and children in support of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Pictured left, U.S. Marines assigned to the FET attached to Foxtrot Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment conduct a security patrol in Marjah, Helmand

province, Afghanistan, Jan. 3, 2011.

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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR MARINES

Voice of America recently reported that the Defense Department has introduced culture training programs at several military bases around the United States. Other branches of the US military have had similar training programs for their Special Forces or intelligence units. But the Marines' program is the first to give all deploying troops wide access to language and culture training. So far, the impact of the Marines' program is hard to measure. But as the 2014 withdrawal deadline gets closer, the Marine Corps believes it will achieve not only the long-term strategy of stability and peace but a better understanding of a culture that until a few years ago was foreign to the troops being sent there.

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MARINES TAP SOLAR ENERGY IN AFGHANISTAN



The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment have tapped into a vital renewable energy source – the sun – to help take the fight to the enemy in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The Enhanced Mohave Viper, an array of solar equipment, has been used since their pre-deployment workup at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., in July. While there, Marines

were able to save up to eight gallons of fuel, per generator, a day.

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MARINE CORPS F-35 VERSION GETS PROBATION



Bloomberg's Tony Capaccio reported Wednesday that goals were met by the Air Force and Navy versions of Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35 but not the Marine Corps short-takeoff and vertical landing version. That model flew 216 sorties out of a planned total of 254. Lockheed Martin officials have acknowledged throughout the year that the Marine model was behind schedule. Purchases through 2016 of the Marine Corps version were cut to 50 from



110, reflecting two years of additional development testing, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last

week. He directed that aircraft be put on a two-year "probation."

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HONORARY MARINE PROGRAM

Since the Honorary Marine Program's inception in 1992, the Marine Corps has awarded the title, Honorary Marine, to individuals in the civilian community who have made extraordinary contributions to the Corps. "The title of Honorary Marine is different from actual Marine," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Shelato, community relations chief for public affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps. "They're not receiving a paycheck or housing allowance but a title of respect for doing amazing things for Marines." According to Marine Corps Order 5060.19B, only commanding generals, commanding officers, officers-in-charge and retired general officers are authorized to nominate individuals deemed deserving of the title Honorary Marine.

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CHARITY TO MARINES: "WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?"



The 5th Marine Regiment hosted an estimated 1,100 mothers and daughters from the non-profit National Charity League who made it their mission to ensure every deployed Marine or Sailor receives a gift, when they prepared 2,400 care packages during the 4th Annual Operation Valentine at Camp San Mateo, Jan. 9. The packages, which will be sent to three deployed battalions from the 1st Marine Division, were filled with combat boot socks, sanitary wipes, hand sanitizer, foot

powder, snacks and other highly coveted items. This year, the NCL also took female Marines into consideration, and produced 100 special care packages for members of deployed female engagement teams.

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HERO OF THE WEEK

AFTER 44 YEARS, MARINE RECEIVES BRONZE STAR

After 44 years, a Vietnam Veteran received a Bronze Star. Frederick Tancke was honored Friday with the military's fourth-highest combat award given for bravery or acts of Merit. Tancke, a recipient of four Purple Hearts, was accompanying another platoon during Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley when 2,500 North Vietnamese soldiers ambushed them. "With complete disregard for his personal safety, (Tancke) stopped to render aid to a wounded corpsman and attempted to drag him to safety," the military citation reads. Even with two wounds, Tancke refused to evacuate so he could remain and fight. "So many were killed that day, and so few were recognized. This is for them too," Tancke said. "This is my thank you."

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EVENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL AVIATION



The 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation Foundation has announced its Official Centennial of Naval Aviation Kick-Off Gala in honor of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard's 100th anniversary of flight. This momentous occasion will be celebrated on Saturday, February 12, 2011 onboard the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, CA -- the "Birthplace of Naval Aviation." The star-studded invitee list includes significant contributors to Naval Aviation's past and present, foundation sponsors, elected officials and leaders in Naval Aviation, both active duty and retired military. The Kick-Off Gala is part of the weekend-long celebration of Naval Aviation, which will serve as the initiation to a year-long celebration across the United States.

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FIRST ENSEMBLES CONCERT OF THE YEAR



Come enjoy the Marine Chamber Ensembles' first concert of the year at 2 p.m. this Sunday, Jan. 16 in John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex in southeast Washington, D.C. Immediately following the performance, join members of "The President's Own" for an Open House with light refreshments and a tour of the Marine Band's facility, including the Hall of Presidents. The event is free and no tickets are required.

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A GRATEFUL NATION

'EXTREME MAKEOVER' FOR MARINE FAMILY

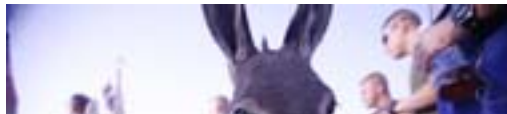


The Beaufort Gazette reported on Tuesday that the Dickinson family was selected for an 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.' Their one-story ranch house will be torn down in a week and a Marine, his wife and five kids will have a new home. India Dickinson said her husband Staff Sgt. Bill Dickinson, an inspection technician deployed to Afghanistan nearly cried when he found out. "It's been a never-ending battle for him," India said. The house had been plagued with problems – chief among them mold, which has

permeated nearly every room and caused respiratory problems for the couple's 16-month daughter.

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MARINE WORKS TO BRING IRAQI DONKEY HOME



The Marine Corps Times recently reported on the efforts of John Folsom, who served as Camp Taqaddum's commandant in 2008, to bring "Smoke"



the donkey home to Nebraska to work with the children of veterans who are struggling to cope with their parent's military service. He got his name for his grey color and tendency to snatch up cigarettes — lit or not. Although regulations ban keeping pets in the war zone, a Navy lieutenant helped designate Smoke a therapy animal and the donkey was cleared to stay, Folsom

said. When the 1st Marines Logistics Group pulled out of Taqaddum, it had to abandon Smoke and the donkey was eventually handed off to a local sheik. Folsom, head of Wounded Warriors Family Support, a nonprofit organization, has been fighting since October to bring Smoke back to the U.S. where he will work with the families of wounded warriors. Smoke will require a special cargo flight but the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International has graciously agreed to pay the cost to ship Smoke.

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